

JOINT STATEMENT NOTES VD PROBLEMS

The total number of reported cases of syphilis in all stages has risen in the United States for the second consecutive year. During 1957, 135,542 cases of syphilis were reported as compared with 126,219 in 1956 and 122,075 in 1955.

This fact was revealed in the fifth Annual Joint Statement, *Today's VD Control Problem*, based on a nationwide survey conducted jointly by the American Social Hygiene Association, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers, and the American Venereal Disease Association.

Commenting on the Joint Statement, Conrad Van Hyning, ASHA's executive director, said: "The facts at hand are significant. They show that the false sense of security which virtually eliminated Federal support in 1953-1954 has now been replaced by increasing attention to the VD problem, with satisfactory results. A partial restoration of Federal funds has permitted states and communities to intensify their control efforts. We have

all learned the expensive lesson that drugs do not stop VD unless they are deposited in human tissue."

The information in the Joint Statement was compiled from individual reports of health departments of all 48 states, 3 U. S. territories, 95 out of the 107 cities in the U. S. with populations of 100,000 or more, and the District of Columbia. The survey therefore represents a thorough and authoritative canvassing of the country's VD problems and program needs.

The 1957 increase in the total number of reported cases of syphilis results primarily from an increase in late and late latent syphilis, of which 100,514 cases were reported—the highest number since 1952.

Cases of primary and secondary syphilis reported show a slight decline, and early latent syphilis shows a slight rise. In neither case, however, is the fluctuation sufficient to change the rate per 100,000 population to any great extent.

(Continued on page 3)

Teen-Age Research Committee Meets

Progress reports and preliminary research data being developed by the ASHA "Study of Teen-Age Sex Behavior" were discussed at a meeting of the project's Steering and Planning Committee in Washington, D. C., on January 27 and 28.

The committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. John Beeston, associate professor of preventive medicine and public health, University of California at Los Angeles, is guiding the research of three pilot studies located in Los Angeles, St. Louis and Boston. The first two pilot studies have been underway since mid-1957, while definite plans for the Boston study will be announced soon.

"It is expected," said Dr. Beeston, "that the pilot project in Boston will be in active operation by the fall of 1958."

Director of the Los Angeles study is Dr. Martin B. Loeb, associate professor, School of Social Welfare, University of California at Los Angeles. Dr. Nicholas J. Demerath, director of the Social Science Institute, Washington University, St. Louis, is director of the St. Louis pilot. Dr. Demerath's associate in this project is Dr. Robert Hamblin, research associate of the Washington University Social Science Institute.

Dr. John W. M. Whiting, director of the Harvard University Laboratory of Human Development, is in charge of the development of plans for the pilot study in Boston.

Purpose of the overall study is to determine the social, cultural and personality factors which influence the sexual behavior of young people, with emphasis on their exposure to venereal disease.

Preliminary reports indicate that the Los Angeles study will involve exhaustive interviews with approxi-

(Continued on page 2)

Board of Directors Elects D. S. Arbuckle

Dr. Dugald S. Arbuckle, of Boston, was elected to membership on ASHA's Board of Directors at the regular quarterly meeting of the Board in New York City on February 10, it was announced by Philip R. Mather, ASHA president.

Dr. Arbuckle is director of student personnel and professor of education at Boston University.

Born in Estevan, Saskatchewan, Canada, in 1912, Dr. Arbuckle received his undergraduate degree at the University of Alberta in 1940, and the Ph.D. degree at the University of Chicago in 1947.

Dr. Arbuckle taught in the Alberta, Canada, public schools from 1932 to

1941, and was an instructor at the laboratory school of the University of Alberta from 1941 to 1943. During 1946 and 1947 he was research consultant for the International Harvester Company, in Chicago. Following his graduate study at the University of Chicago, Dr. Arbuckle joined the staff of Boston University.

The new Board member is a frequent contributor to various professional journals, and belongs to the American Psychological Association, the American Personnel and Guidance Association, the American College Personnel Association, Phi Delta Kappa and several other professional organizations.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Dr. Robert Hoyt, of Cleveland, was recently re-elected president of the Ohio Council of Social Hygiene. Mrs. Margaret Walgenbach, of Portsmouth, was re-elected as vice-president; and Earl O. Wright, Columbus, was chosen secretary-treasurer. . . . **Dr. Warren C. Lovinger**, president, Central Missouri State College, Warrensburg, Missouri, addressed the Kansas City Social Hygiene Society's 35th annual meeting on February 27. The title of Dr. Lovinger's address was "Old and New Approaches to Better Family Life." A memorial for Mrs. Mary D. Ream, first executive secretary of the Society, was presented by Dr. A. Lloyd Stockwell. . . . **Donald A. Clarke**, ASHA western regional director, attended a Family Life Education Workshop in San Leandro, Calif., on January 4. Main speaker at the workshop was Dr. Lester Kirkendall, professor of family life at Oregon State College. . . . **The Rev. Robert S. Tate, Jr.**, was recently elected chairman of the San Antonio, Texas, Social Hygiene Committee. Dr. David Jacobson was elected vice-chairman, and Howard M. Slutes, ASHA southwest regional director, was elected secretary. . . . **The Social Hygiene and Mental Health Association of Birmingham, Alabama**, presented Nora Stirling's play, "Return

to Thine Own House," on January 21. The play is produced by the American Theater Wing, in cooperation with the National Association for Mental Health, and is a study of a former mental patient's near-rejection by his community. . . . **Mrs. Charles U. Culmer**, Libertyville, Illinois, was recently elected national president of the Girl Scouts of America. . . . **The Scioto (Ohio) County Social Hygiene Association** distributed 14,450 pamphlets during 1957 for a "new record," and showed social hygiene films 252 times to approximately 12,705 people. Margaret L. Walgenbach is president of this local association. . . . **Dr. A. S. Jaeger**, Indianapolis physician, was elected president of the Indianapolis Social Hygiene Association, of which Mrs. Meredith Nicholson, Jr., is executive director. . . . **Mrs. Elizabeth S. Force**, ASHA family life education consultant, was a speaker during Life Planning Week, February 16 to 20, in Huntington, West Virginia. President Stewart H. Smith, of Marshall College, was honorary chairman of Life Planning Week. . . . **The Social Hygiene Association of Dayton and Montgomery Counties (Ohio)** is planning a spring meeting concerning present practices of living from the viewpoint of teen-agers.

New Orleans Paper Cites Satisfactory ASHA Rating

"For the first time New Orleans has received a 'Class A' rating from the American Social Hygiene Association for suppression of vice and prostitution."

This statement was made in an editorial published December 27, 1957, in the New Orleans, La., *Times-Picayune*.

ASHA ratings for New Orleans have ranged from "unsatisfactory" to "satisfactory" over a long period of years. The rating given New Orleans in 1956 was "very satisfactory," and in 1957 the city received the Class A rating.

Mayor Chep Morrison also congratulated the New Orleans police department for three other major accomplishments during 1957: A 2.1 per cent reduction in major crimes; the strict enforcement of gambling laws; and a decrease in traffic fatalities and accidents.

Educators Confer

The Advisory Committee of the ASHA-sponsored Central Atlantic Regional In-Service Project in family life education met in Washington, D. C., on January 28 and 29. Coordinator of the project is Dr. Harold K. Jack, supervisor of health and physical education, safety and recreation of the Virginia State Department of Education.

Main purpose of the meeting was to hear progress reports of family life education activities in the states participating in the project, and to discuss future plans.

Evidence of progress throughout the project region was indicated by reports of increasing numbers of courses in family life education in the schools, state and local workshops and conferences, plans for several pilot projects, and the formation of various state and local committees to further work in the field of family life education.

Italy Establishes Prostitution Ban

Italy has formally outlawed licensed prostitution, according to an article in the January 28 issue of the New York Times. The article states that all brothels in Italy must be closed within six months.

Five hundred and sixty houses of prostitution will be affected by the action, which was taken by the Italian Chamber during legislative sessions in January.

It is reported that Italy is the last remaining country in Europe with licensed houses of prostitution, a situation which is contrary to the principles of the United Nations Organization.

ASHA has been in touch with Italian leaders of the anti-prostitution movement since their early efforts ten years ago. Paul M. Kinsie, director of the Association's Legal and Social Protection Division, and Josephine Tuller, director of the International Division, both provided advisory and consultative services to Italian officials.

Research

(Continued from page 1)

mately 60 young people between the ages of 12 and 15.

The St. Louis project will involve the use of questionnaire and personal interview techniques with some 500 young people. The age group being studied in St. Louis will be somewhat higher than in the case of the Los Angeles study.

Current plans for the Boston pilot call for the interviewing of members of a typical teen-age "street-corner society."

The Steering and Planning Committee also discussed plans for the present and future financing of the three projects, as well as requests from other cities for similar studies.

Social Hygiene NEWS
published by
THE AMERICAN SOCIAL HYGIENE
ASSOCIATION
1790 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y.
Philip R. Mather - - - - President
Conrad Van Hynning - Executive Director
Edgar C. Cumings - - - - Editor
COPYRIGHT 1957 BY AMERICAN SOCIAL HYGIENE
ASSOCIATION, 1790 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y.

Professional Recognition Urged for Law Officers

Bernard C. Brannon, Chief of Police in Kansas City, Mo., recently came out strongly for more recognition of law enforcement as a profession.

Speaking before the International Association of Chiefs of Police, at the Association's Annual Conference, Chief Brannon said nationwide curriculums should be established for potential law enforcement officers.

"The combination of two factors is necessary for our professional success," said Chief Brannon. "We must create the desire on the part of young people to study policing, and we must persuade our colleges and universities to establish law enforcement curriculums and assist them in their endeavor."

The Kansas City police chief also advocated licensing of enforcement officers by a state examining board following a state examination.

Award to Ketchikan

ASHA investigations of prostitution and vice conditions in Ketchikan, Alaska, were cited recently when Ketchikan was named as one of 11 cities with an "All-America" rating for municipal accomplishment.

In a letter to the Association, Emery F. Tobin, editor and publisher of *The Alaska Sportsman*, stated that "the American Social Hygiene Association was instrumental in a very effective way in correcting these bad conditions and we now believe Ketchikan is one of the best and cleanest cities in the country."

Mr. Tobin referred in his letter to previous unsatisfactory conditions in Ketchikan which led to ASHA surveys for several years prior to 1954. Robert S. Elliott, former ASHA regional director, followed up the investigations and worked closely with the local Grand Jury to effect a city-wide improvement of existing poor conditions.

VD Statement

(Continued from page 1)

Gonorrhea continues its downward trend to 216,476 cases reported in 1957, as against 233,333 in 1956 and 239,787 in 1955, although it should be noted that the reporting of gonorrhea is especially spotty, and that the incidence of this disease may be anywhere from 3 to 10 times the number of cases actually reported.

Although 14 states and 10 cities noted a rise in VD in the 11-19 age group, 29 states and 49 cities observed no change in teenage statistics. One state, one territory and six cities noted a decline in teenage VD. Four states and 23 cities either had no data available for this age group or their comments indicated no particular trend.

Health officials believe the increase in total cases of syphilis represents better casefinding and better employment by state and local governments of the tools of control. They are hopeful that present program resources may be added to and maintained at a reasonably high level in order to reestablish the rapid decline in syphilis and gonorrhea that characterized the late 1940's and early 1950's.

Biggest problem to health officers is shortage of personnel to maintain adequate coverage of the VD problem. Thirty-two states, 1 territory and 9 cities report inadequate coverage in a total of 137 areas with a combined population of about 20 million.

Personnel shortages were reported by 28 states, 2 territories and 12 cities. They estimated that, in order to provide adequate coverage, they would need 35 additional physicians, 53 additional nurses, 87 additional investigators, 6 additional laboratory technicians, 15 additional record analysts, and 27 additional health educators.

To meet current problems, the Joint Statement recommends:

1. An increase in Federal appropriations for VD control to \$5,700,000.

2. A VD education program to include educational resources of health departments, schools, churches, youth and family-serving agencies and civic organizations.

3. Intensive research in gonorrhea aimed at developing a simplified and practical method of diagnosis and a more effective method of treatment.

4. Enlistment of the private physician as an active participant in the VD control program.

5. Incorporation of cluster-testing techniques into routine VD control programs in order to locate more cases.



Pictured above are six members of the ASHA Board of Directors. From left to right: Leo Perlis, director, AFL-CIO Committee on Community Services; Erik Barnouw, Columbia University Center for Mass Communications; Dr. Bruce Webster, chairman of ASHA's executive committee; Phillip R. Mather, ASHA president; Judge Peter M. Horn; and Ward B. Chamberlin, Jr., General Dynamics Corporation.

MARCH, 1958

Mr. Eugene B. Power
University Microfilms
313 N. First Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan

AP

Social Hygiene News AMERICAN SOCIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION

Dr. Wetherill Awarded Life Membership

Dr. G. G. Wetherill, director of health education for the San Diego, Calif., public schools, was recently awarded an Honorary Life Membership by the California Congress of Parents and Teachers.

The award was presented to Dr. Wetherill in recognition of his work, over a long period of years, with the social hygiene education program of the San Diego schools.

Dr. Wetherill is chairman of the Social Hygiene Committee of the San Diego Community Welfare Council, and is also a member of ASHA's Education Advisory Committee. He has long been noted for his work in social hygiene and sex education.

National Health Forum Meets in Philadelphia

Community planners and health leaders from all parts of the country meet in Philadelphia March 18-20 to discuss ways of coping with "urban sprawl" and its impact on the physical and mental health of the three out of five Americans who live in cities or suburbs.

Setting for the discussions will be the 1958 National Health Forum at the Sheraton Hotel, Philadelphia.

Warning to Parents Richman at Seminar

The frequent criticism that American young people are governed by a love of security and inclination to conformity might better be directed at their parents, according to John W. Gardner, president of the Carnegie Corporation.

In the Corporation's annual report, released on February 10, Mr. Gardner said: "Parents should not assume that the only possible objectives for their sons and daughters are comfort and security. They should be hospitable to the vitality that expresses itself in chance-taking."

"A society in which the young people have lost their boldness and sense of adventure," says Mr. Gardner, "their zest for exploration and risk-taking, and their capacity for dedication—such a society is headed for the history books."

The Carnegie Corporation's annual report reveals that grants of more than \$7 million were made during the past fiscal year ending September 30, for educational purposes in the United States and certain British Commonwealth areas.

T. Lefoy Richman, ASHA's associate director, served as chairman of panel discussions on "What's Needed in VD Education Materials and Methods" at a regional seminar on the venereal diseases in Jacksonville, Fla., on February 11-13.

The panel discussions dealt with the following topics: Special groups at which VD educational materials are directed; what the materials are expected to accomplish; characterization of successful VD education materials; and types of materials demanding priority consideration.

Mr. Richman and Howard M. Slutes, ASHA's southwestern regional director, also attended the regional VD seminar in El Paso, Texas, on January 21-23.

Revision of Film

The Center for Mass Communications of the Columbia University Press has recently announced a revision of the film, *The Invader*.

The new edition of this film, which concerns syphilis, runs for 29 minutes and tells the story in a more concise manner than did the original film.

Price of the film is \$125. It is available at the Center for Mass Communications, 1125 Amsterdam Avenue, New York 25, N. Y.



COMMUNITY CAMPAIGNS

Give...the United way